

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 STE-01 SSO-00 SYE-00 /014 W
-----060003 170241Z /75

O 170109Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6262
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T HONG KONG 9777

DEPT FOR ST. MARS FROM RSS KNAUF; KUALA LUMPUR FOR OIC/NSU;

DEPT FOR NSU, A/SY/OPS/T

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, NSU
SUBJ: TRAVEL OF OIC/NSU

REF: A) STATE 158741 DATED 8 JULY 77
B) STATE 163963 DATED 14 JULY 77
C) STATE 193227 DATED 15 AUGUST 77
D) HONG KONG 7269 DATED 24 JUNE 77
E) HONG KONG 8113 DATED 12 JULY 77
F) HONG KONG 9565 DATED 12 AUGUST 77

THIS IS IN REPLY TO STATE 193227 DATED 15 AUG 1977.

1. OIC/RTC HONG KONG OVER PERIOD OF MONTHS HAS BEEN PLANNING JOINT
EFFORT TO HAVE A TEAM OF ENGINEERS AND SEABEES TRAVEL TO PEKING
TO ACCOMPLISH A NUMBER OF MAJOR SY RELATED PROJECTS AS WELL AS
OTHER ROUTINE WORK AT THE USLO. THIS WORK INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT
LIMITED TO:

- A) CONSTRUCTION OF "CHILLER SHED".
- B) BUILD SEVERAL PARTITIONS AND INTERCONNECTING DOOR
APERTURES IN THE COMBINED COMMUNICATION AREA IN PEKING,
- C) RENOVATE AND ENLARGE AN OFFICE SPACE FOR THE NEW RSO

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OFFICE AND SUBDIVIDE SAME OFFICE AREA TO ESTABLISH A SECURE
AREA FOR THE AUTOSCAN SYSTEM.
D) COMPLETELY OVERHAUL THE DISINTEGRATOR,
E) CONDUCT AUDIO COUNTERMEASURES INSEPCIONS,
F) INSTALL A NEW ALARM SYSTEM IN TCU,
G) REMOVE ALL OLD EXISTING ALARM SYSTEMS IN USLO
PEKING AND REPLACE WITH NEW, MORE RELIABLE SYSTEMS,

H) REVIEW THE ACR WITH AN EYE TOWARDS CLEANING AND REPAIRING BOTH PARENT ROOM AND ENCLOSURE. SOME OF THESE PROJECTS CANNOT BE DELAYED.

2. THE TIMING OF THIS JOINT EFFORT EVEN UNDER NORMAL SITUATIONS IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THE RESIDENT POSTS OF THESE ENGINEERS AND SEABEES HAVE OUTSTANDING URGENT PROJECTS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED AS WELL AS COMPLETING ANTI-TERRORIST DEFENSES AT THE POSTS IN THE RESPECTIVE SUBREGION. BAGNAL HAS SINCE APRIL BEEN STEADILY FORMULATING PLANS FOR JOINT PEKING VENTURE WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO KICK OFF ON AUG 10.

3. COMPLICATED BY THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO PEKING AND THE SUPPORT REQUESTED BOTH BY THE LIAISON MISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT, BAGNAL WAS FORCED TO RESCHEDULE THE ENTRY OF HIS GROUP. AS SY AWARE, OBTAINING PRC VISA FOR CONCURRENT TRAVEL OF THREE SEABEES AND TWO TECHNICAL OFFICERS IS NO SMALL ACHIEVEMENT SINCE THE DEPARTMENT, THE LIAISON MISSION, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE ARE ALL INVOLVED. FURTHER, THE DATES OF ENTRY, METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION, ROUTES OF TRAVEL AND DEPARTURE DATES ARE ALL CRITICAL AND MUST BE DETERMINED AND ACCEPTED PRIOR TO ENTERING THE PRC. WHEN THE 10 AUGUST DATE WAS ABORTED, A NEW SCHEDULE HAD TO BE SUBSTITUTED AND COMPLETELY FLEXIBLE TO BE ADJUSTED TO FINAL DATES OF THE SECRETARY'S TRAVEL. THIS SITUATION NOT ONLY FRUSTRATING TO BAGNAL, BUT RISKS THE SECRET

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IRRITATION AND NON-COOPERATION OF THE CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE. IT WAS NOT UNTIL AUGUST 8 THAT ADVICE WAS RECEIVED IN HONG KONG THAT THE SECRETARY'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE TO PEKING WAS FIRM AND BAGNAL COULD FINALLY MAKE DEFINITIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO MOVE INTO PEKING WITH HIS TEAM. AS SOON AS THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE SET UP WITH CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE HE ADVISED SY AND NSU. THIS TELEGRAM AS WELL AS THE CONSTANT ADVISE ALERTING NSU TO THE IMPENDING SITUATION SHOULD ABSOLVE BAGNAL OF ANY CRITICISM OF "TIMELINESS" IN HIS RESPONSES TO STATE 163963 AS SUGGESTED IN STATE 193227.

4. THE FOREGOING REVIEW SETS THE SCENE FOR THE OIC/NSU TRAVEL TO THE SOUTHEAST ASIA AREA AS ANNOUNCED IN STATE 158741 DATED 8 JULY AND REITERATED AND AMENDED ON 14 JULY 1977 IN STATE 163963. AS EARLY AS JUNE AND CONSTANTLY THEREAFTER, OIC/RTC KEPT SY AND NSU ADVISED OF THE CRITICAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE PEKING TRIP AND POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF TIMING WITH OIC/NSU. THIS ADVICE WAS CONSTANT STARTING WITH HONG KONG 7269 DATED 24 JUNE 77 FOLLOWED BY A MORE DEFINITIVE NEGATIVE REACTION IN HONG KONG 8113 DATED 12 JULY 77 AND FIRM OBJECTION IN HONG KONG 9565 ON AUGUST 77. THESE CABLES WHICH ALERTED NSU TO THE INOPPORTUNITY OF THE TIMING OF OIC TRAVEL WERE SUPPLEMENTED BY ADVICE IN MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS FROM SEABEE GROSS IN HONG KONG AS WELL AS BY

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT IN JUNE FROM OIC/RTC BAGNAL.
IN ADDITION TO THE STATUS REPORT OF JUNE AND JULY OF SEABEE
GROSS, THERE WAS ALSO A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SEABEE
GROSS AND LT. ROUSSOS WHEREIN OIC/NSU WAS ADVISED OF THE
UNAVAILABILITY OF BAGNAL AND GROSS DUE TO THE PEKING PROJECT.
THIS CORRESPONDENCE EXEMPTS THE OIC/RTC FROM ANY CRITICISM AS
TO HIS "TIMELINES OF RESPONSE" TO LT. ROUSSOS' SCHEDULE.

5. IN THE FACE OF THIS ONGOING ADVICE FROM HONG KONG, NSU HAS
NOT CHANGED LT. ROUSSOS' 15 JULY ITINERARY AND HE IS NOW
SCHEDULED INTO HONG KONG AND TOKYO WHEN BOTH THE NAMED SEABEES
AND TECHNICAL OFFICERS ARE ENGAGED IN PEKING. DUE TO THE SECRETARY'S
VISIT AND DIFFICULTIES OF SETTING UP PEKING TRAVEL, THE
ITINERARY OF THIS GROUP INTO PEKING IS OBVIOUSLY NOT VARIABLE. AS
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EXAMPLE OF THIS INVOLVEMENT RSO ROLES IN PEKING ON 15 AUGUST,
CALLED THE RSS SPECIFICALLY TO VERIFY THE ARRIVAL OF SEABEE GROSS
AND LEE TO INSURE THEIR PRESENCE TO ASSIST POST IN HANDLING
CLASSIFIED AND RESPONDING TO OTHER REQUIREMENTS DURING THE
SECRETARY'S VISIT. WITH THE RSS'S ASSURANCE OF THE PRESENCE OF
GROSS AND LEE, BOLES DESISTED FROM (WHAT MIGHT HAVE IN ANY EVENT
BEEN A FRUITLESS EFFORT) REQUESTING WASHINGTON BASED SEABEES
TRAVEL TO PEKING FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT.

6. CASPER PELCZYNSKI TELECON WITH BAGNAL OF 15 AUGUST HAS
CONCERNED BAGNAL BUT IN ALL PROBABILITY DUE TO VISA PROCUREMENT,
TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND TEAM FAMILIARITY IT IS TOO LATE AND
INAPPROPRIATE TO SUBSTITUTE WASHINGTON BASED SEABEES FOR AUGUST 20
DEPARTURE; EVEN IF SEABEE GROSS AND RINESMITH'S TRIP TO PEKING
WERE ABORTED, BAGNAL AND TATUM TRAVEL STILL WOULD BE FIRM.
IF LT. ROUSSO'S INSEPCION TRIP IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, HE SHOULD
ALSO CONSULT BOTH OIC GANGAL AND TSO TATUM. UNFORTUNATELY,
ROUSSOS TIMING ALREADY PRECLUDES CONTACT WITH JULES BEAUDOIN,
TSO BANGKOK WHO IS NOT DUE TO RETURN FROM HOME LEAVE UNTILE
EARLY SEPTEMBER.

7. OIC/RTC BAGNAL IS GENUINELY DISTRESSED AND WOULD DO ANY-
THING TO ACCOMMODATE ROUSSOS PRESENT TRAVEL SCHEDULE IF IT
WERE POSSIBLE. RSS CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY NSU DID NOT ANSWER
HONG KONG TELEGRAMS CITED IN REFERENCE OR BECOME ALERTED TO THE
PROBLEMS OUTLINED IN MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS AND TELECONS.

8. BEST SUGGEST RSS CAN OFFER IS OIC/NSU AMEND TRAVEL
PERHAPS TRAVELING TO BANGKOK AND AUSTRALIA BEFORE PRO-
CEEDING TO HONG KONG AND TOKYO. AT ROUSSOS' REQUEST,
WE CAN PROBABLY RELEASE LEE FROM PEKING TO MANILA ON OR
ABOUT 6 SEPT. OIC/RTC BAGNAL, TSO TATUM, SEABEES
RINESMITH AND GROSS WILL LEAVE PEKING ON OR ABOUT
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10 SEPTEMBER 77.
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Message Attributes

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